

Claims

1. Apparatus for the generation of video and/or audio by the conditional access and processing of selected portions of digital data stored on a storage medium, said data stored in portions on said storage medium and said storage medium placed in processing apparatus for accessing and processing selected portions of digital data to generate video and/or audio and wherein there is provided at least one portion of data on the storage medium which is only conditionally accessible by the processing apparatus in response to a signal of a predesignated form transmitted from a transmitter provided as part of an actuating means and, said processing apparatus, upon receiving the said signal can locate the identified portion of data on the storage medium, access the same and processes the data from said portion to generate the video and/or audio.
2. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein a further portion or portions of data on the storage medium are accessible in response to control signals emitted from a remote control device.
3. Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the said further portions of data are accessible using the remote control device and the conditionally accessible portion of data can be accessed using actuating means other than the remote control device.
4. Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the said further portions of data are accessible using the remote control device in conjunction with a series of options displayed on a display screen and said conditionally accessible portion of data is accessed using the signal of the predesignated format provided from the remote control device which also acts as the actuating means.

5. A system according to claim 4 wherein the conditionally accessible portion of data is not indicated on screen as being accessible until the signal of a predesignated format is generated.

6 Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the conditionally accessible portion of data which is accessed via the transmission of the predesignated signal is associated with the means by which the signal is generated.

7. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein operation of one or a sequence of keys or switches on the actuating device, causes the predesignated signal to be generated and transmitted to the apparatus to allow access to the conditionally accessible portion of data on the storage medium.

8. Apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the actuating means incorporates an identified key or switch which when operated causes the predesignated signal to be transmitted.

9. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the predesignated signal is held in a memory in the actuation means and is transmitted continuously, at intervals, or upon operation of a control means.

10 Apparatus according to claim 9 wherein the signal is transmitted when the actuating means is switched on and the transmitter of the actuation means has a given signal transmission range and when the actuating means is brought within range of the signal receiver at the processing apparatus, the conditionally accessible portion of data is accessed.

11 Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the predesignated signal is transmitted by any of radio frequency, passive resistance, infrared, barcode or other data transfer system.

12. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the actuating means is only capable of transmitting the predesignated signal.

13. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the actuation means is a voice actuation system and the signal of a predesignated form is a word, letter(s) or numeral(s) generated by the actuation means and received by voice signal reception means provided as part of the processing apparatus.

14. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein once the signal has been transmitted and received by the processing apparatus, the conditionally accessible portion of data on said storage medium linked to said signal is accessed and video and/or audio from said data is displayed via a display screen and/or speakers connected to the processing apparatus.

15. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the predesignated signal comprises a selected number of data bits, the selection determined by the security level required for the signal.

16. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the number of times which the conditionally accessible portion of data can be accessed is limited with respect to a predesignated value.

17 Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the actuating means is or is provided as part of a toy, model figure or soft toy.

18 Apparatus according to claim 17 wherein the predesignated signal is emitted in response to a change in condition or position of the toy.

19 Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the actuating means can emit a series of predesignated signals, the selection of which signal is emitted dependant on the condition of the actuating means at any given instant.

20 Apparatus according to claim 18 wherein each predesignated signal is linked to a particular conditionally accessible portion of data on the storage medium and allows access and processing of the same when that signal is received.

21 Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the storage medium includes a plurality of conditionally accessible portions of data each of which is only accessible upon receipt of an allocated predesignated signal from the actuating means.

22 Apparatus for the generation of video and/or audio by the conditional access and processing of selected portions of digital data stored on a storage medium, said data stored in portions on said storage medium and said storage medium placed in processing apparatus for accessing and processing selected portions of digital data to generate video and/or audio and wherein the storage medium includes a first group of portions of data, said portions accessible in response to signals emitted from a user selection means and a second group including at least one portion of data which is only conditionally accessible, said conditional access achieved when the said processing apparatus receives a predesignated signal from an actuating means.

23 Apparatus according to claim 22 wherein the user selection means is a remote control device via which the user can select portions of data.

24 Apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the user selection means is used to navigate through and select options which are displayed on a display screen connected to the processing apparatus.

25 Apparatus according to claim 22 wherein the storage medium is a DVD, and the processing apparatus is a DVD player.